

**From:** John Hails  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/24/01 4:31pm  
**Subject:** National Security issues of a Monopoly

Microsoft's monopolistic practises are not only bad for businesses, they are a serious threat to the National and International Security interests of many sovereign nations. Homogenous computer and internet services are more readily attacked and brought down by viruses and worms. Microsoft products have been notoriously easy to breach by hackers. It is short sighted thinking to put all of ones eggs in one basket and to entrust the safety of that basket to a single corporate entity who's only major concern is control and profit but that is what we are doing. With each new release of Microsoft's operating system that control is inexorably expanded to increasingly encompass all our information sytems, our database mangement, personal information, banking records, taxation, defense, entertainment, internet communication, retail sales, health records, government etc. etc. These issues are far too important to be entrusted to one company that if left unchecked will certainly control almost every aspect of our future lives.

I urge you to consider forcing Microsoft to release its code into the public domain, breaking the company up into two or three seperate entities and encouragin f public sector services to be mandated to adopt alternative software solutions designed to encourage diversity and interoperability. Tim Berners Lee invented the World Wide Web in the early 70's to make it possible to share information across language and technology barriers. The idea was to design a system that permitted diversity not a monoculture of clones. Microsoft could make their systems operable with competing or rival solutions but they won't because there is no reason for them to do so. In fact there is every reason for them not to. Nothing I have seen so far indicates that they will change their ways. With the release of Windows XP, Microsoft is about to ratchet up its ability to dominate the sytem one more notch

Thankyou  
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